

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-14 EA-12 NEA-11
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 /143 W
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P R 090907Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8361
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
WMEMBASSY MAPUTO 2027
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1647

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, MOPS, WA, SF, AO
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SWAPO STATEMENTS ON ANGOLA RAID

1. SWAPO INFORMATION SECRETARY PETER KATJAVIVI RELEASED STATEMENTS IN LUSAKA ON MAY 6 AND 7 ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK ON SWAPO BASE IN ANGOLA. THE FIRST STATEMENT CHARGES THAT AT LEAST 7000 SAG TROOPS, FLOWN FROM THE GROOTFONTEIN AIRBASE, PARTICIPATED IN THE OPERATION. THE ATTACK IS TAKEN AS PROOF THAT "THE SOUTH AFRICA REGIME HAS NO INTENTION OF QUITTING NAMIBIA" AND INTENDS TO PERPETUATE ITS "COLONIAL DOMINATION." THE STATEMENT POINTS OUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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AN INCREASE IN THE FIGHTING BETWEEN THE SAG FORCES AND THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY OF NAMIBIA (PLAN). WHO "HAVE PUSHED THE WAR OF LIBERATION INTO A DECISIVE PHASE." THE STATEMENT CLOSES BY CALLING ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO CONDEMN "THIS LATEST SOUTH AFRICAN ACT OF NAKED AGGRESSION...AND COLD-BLOODED MURDER OF NAMIBIAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN."

2. THE MAY 7 STATEMENT CLAIMS THAT 600 PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND 200 WOUNDED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK. KATJAVIVI'S RELEASE POINTED OUT THAT THOSE WHO WERE URGING THAT SWAPO ACCEPT THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS WITHOUT AMENDMENTS SHOULD "REALIZE THE FULL EXTENT OF THE BARBARIC AND SENSELESS ACTS COMMITTED BY THE RACIST REGIME." THE STATEMENT GOES ON TO CHARGE THAT SAG IS REINFORCING ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA, INCLUDING MOVING THREE BATTALION OF MEN TO THE ANGOLAN BORDER. SUCH ACTIVITIES JUSTIFIED SWAPO'S DEMANDS THAT THE RESIDUAL SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE BE CONFINED TO A BASE IN THE SOUTH OF NAMIBIA. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT, THE RAID ALSO DEMONSTRATES WHY SWAPO IS "UNEASY" ABOUT A SETTLEMENT WHICH LEAVES WALVIS BAY UNDER THE CONTROL OF SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH COULD USE THE ENCLAVE FOR "HARBORING RACIST TROOPS FOR INFILTRATION AND SABOTAGE AGAINST AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA." LOW

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